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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MICHAEL GETLER BY-LINER WASHINGTON POST WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, HEADED "RUMSFELD SEEKS NATO FOR SPAIN."

2. BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, DEC. 7 -- OUTGOING U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD SUGGESTED TODAY THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE INVITE SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SIT IN AS OBSERVERS AT HIGH-LEVEL NATO MEETINGS AFTER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN SPAIN IN MARCH.

3. RUMSFELD.S SUGGESTION TO A CLOSED-DOOR, SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS FROM 13 NATO COUNTRIES REFLECTS INCREASING U.S. EMPHASIS ON BRINGING POST-FRANCO SPAIN INTO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ACCORDING TO U.S. OFFICIALS.

4. IT IS HOPED IN U.S. CIRCLES THAT THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS PROMISED BY KING JUAN CARLOS WILL HELP CON-
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VINCE SOME EUROPEAN AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, LONG OPPOSED TO THE PREVIOUS FRANCO DICTATORSHIP, THAT SPAIN

IS NOW MOVING TOWARD DEMOCRACY.

5. DESPITE THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN NATO, THE ISSUE OF SPANISH ENTRY IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF LONG AND BITTER MEMORIES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF FRANCO POLICIES AND SPAIN'S WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION WITH NAZI GERMANY. THUS THE AMERICANS ARE HOPING THAT IT WILL BE THE EUROPEANS WHO WILL EVENTUALLY COME AROUND AND EXTEND SPAIN THE INVITATION TO JOIN.

6. ALTHOUGH RUMSFELD'S SUGGESTION WAS MADE ONLY IN PASSING AND WAS NOT A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION, NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS IS SAID TO HAVE VOICED SUPPORT FOR IT. WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS ALSO SAID THEY WOULD NOW SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS ON SPANISH MEMBERSHIP AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS.

7. ASIDE FROM THE POTENTIAL ADDITION OF SPAIN'S ARMED FORCES TO NATO, THE INTEREST IN SPANISH MEMBERSHIP AMONG ALLIED STRATEGISTS HAS TO DO WITH THE COUNTRY'S LARGE LAND MASS WELL BEHIND THE FRONT LINES OF ANY LIKELY EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELD AND THE VAST SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINE.

8. THE LAND AREA COULD PROVIDE SECURE REAR-AREA BASES AND THE COAST COULD OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE FOR NAVAL BASES NOW IN ITALY IF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT EVENTUALLY COMES UNDER COMMUNIST DOMINATION.

9. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY BEEN WOOING THE SPANISH QUIETLY. GROUPS OF HIGH-RANKING SPANISH OFFICERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TOURS OF NATO INSTALLATIONS AND A RECENT MEETING WITH NATO COMMANDER GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG. A COURSE ON NATO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE SPANISH GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL IN MADRID.

10. WHETHER AMERICAN INTEREST WILL REMAIN AS HIGH ONCE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER TAKES
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OVER IS A KEY QUESTION HERE.

11. THE TWO-DAY DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING THAT OPENED HERE TODAY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE MEETINGS ARE THE LAST TO BE ADDRESSED BY BOTH RUMSFELD AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER BEFORE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER.

12. KISSINGER SAID ON ARRIVAL TODAY THAT "THE DEMO-

CRACY OF OUR NATIONS DEPENDS" ON THE COHESIVENESS OF NATO.

13. BRITISH FLEET ADM. SIR PETER HILL-NORTON, CHAIRMAN OF NATO'S MILITARY COMMITTEE, ALSO MADE HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE MINISTERS TODAY WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST-WEST BALANCE OF POWER THAT WAS EVEN SLIGHTLY MORE GLOOMY THAN NORMAL FOR NATO IN RECENT YEARS.

14. THE BRITISH ADMIRAL SPOKE OF A "CLEAR PATTERN OF RELENTLESS DETERMINATION" BY THE SOVIETS AND THEIR WARSAW PACT ALLIES TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER THE WEST.

15. HE SAID THE PLANS FOR MILITARY FORCES ADOPTED BY NATO WERE ACTUALLY BELOW WHAT COMMANDERS NEEDED AND ADDED THAT SOME COUNTRIES DO NOT EVEN MEET THOSE REDUCED REQUIREMENTS. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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